

**BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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Application of	)	
DELTA AIR LINES, INC.	)	
	)	Docket DOT-OST-2006-23924
for a frequency allocation to operate Atlanta,	)	DOT-OST-2020-0051
Georgia-Cape Town, South Africa service	)	
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**APPLICATION OF  
DELTA AIR LINES, INC. FOR A FREQUENCY ALLOCATION**

Communications with respect to this document should be sent to:

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February 17, 2022

**Notice:** Delta is requesting expedited treatment of this application and will poll air carrier representatives on the attached service list and will advise the Department of the results.

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**APPLICATION OF  
DELTA AIR LINES, INC. FOR A FREQUENCY ALLOCATION**

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 40109 and Subpart C of the Department's Rules of Practice, Delta Air Lines, Inc. ("Delta") applies for frequencies to allow Delta to engage in three-times-weekly scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property, and mail between Atlanta, Georgia and Cape Town, South Africa. The flights will operate on a nonstop basis between Atlanta and Cape Town utilizing 306-seat Airbus A350-900 aircraft. Delta plans to commence this new service pattern starting November 18, 2022, depending on the travel restrictions imposed by either country due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Delta already holds exemption authority to provide scheduled service between Atlanta and the coterminal points of Johannesburg, South Africa and Cape Town, South Africa. See Notice of Action Taken dated June 3, 2020 in Docket DOT-OST-2020-0051. To the extent necessary, Delta also requests that this exemption authority be amended to allow for nonstop Atlanta-Cape Town service as well.<sup>1</sup> This expanded exemption authority is clearly in the public interest for all the same reasons Delta cited in its initial application for coterminal authority.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In parallel, Delta is still seeking approval of a triangular, Atlanta-Johannesburg-Cape Town-Atlanta, routing from the South Africa Department of Transport to offer flexibility to the currently operating Atlanta-Johannesburg-Atlanta flights. For the avoidance of doubt, Delta is not asking the Department to adjust its previous award to Delta of seven weekly frequencies to provide nonstop service between Atlanta and Johannesburg.

<sup>2</sup> Application of Delta Air Lines, Inc. for an Exemption, filed May 21, 2020 in this Docket.

Delta states as follows in support of this application:

1. Delta's proposed flights between Atlanta and Cape Town will depart Delta's hub at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport at (all times local) 20:45 and arrive at Cape Town at 18:45 before returning at 21:00 for arrival into Atlanta at 06:25. Delta requests authority for year-round service with seasonal flexibility to tailor capacity to demand during off-peak periods.

2. Granting Delta the requested frequencies is clearly in the public interest. Delta's proposed service will allow Delta to re-start service to Cape Town, which it last served in 2009. In contrast to Delta's prior Cape Town service, which operated via Dakar, Senegal, Delta's new service would give Delta's customers nonstop access to Cape Town. It will also allow passengers to connect at Delta's hub at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport – the world's busiest and largest airport. The proposed service will increase travel and trade opportunities, boost Atlanta and regional economies, create jobs, and provide benefits to travelers across the U.S. Delta's superior operational reliability and customer service will benefit passengers who would make use of these proposed services.

3. The proposed Atlanta-Cape Town service is fully consistent with the Air Transport Agreement between the United States and South Africa ("Agreement"). Under the Agreement, Delta is a designated combination carrier. Designated U.S. carriers may operate from points in the U.S. to Cape Town under the Scheduled Air Service Annex of the Agreement. Delta understands that four of the twenty-one weekly frequencies authorized under the Agreement for U.S. carriers remain unallocated<sup>3</sup>, and that the Department awarding Delta three frequencies would result in one remaining unallocated frequency.

4. Delta holds various certificates of public convenience and necessity and exemptions authorizing it to engage in scheduled air transportation of persons, property and mail

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<sup>3</sup> See Notice of Action Taken dated June 29, 2021 in Docket DOT-OST-2020-0051 (re-allocating seven weekly U.S.-South Africa frequencies to permit Delta to provide Atlanta-Johannesburg-Atlanta service).

between the U.S. and various foreign countries.<sup>4</sup> Delta is fit, willing, and able to provide the services for which it seeks authority. Pursuant to Rule 24 of the Department's Rules of Practice, Delta requests that the Department take official notice of all information and data that have been filed establishing Delta's fitness.

5. Delta expects no difficulty obtaining fuel for the proposed services from its regular suppliers. The environmental impacts of the service will be *de minimis*, as Delta would otherwise deploy these aircraft elsewhere in its network. Hence, there will not be a near term net change in aircraft fuel consumption of more than 10 million gallons.

WHEREFORE, Delta respectfully requests that the Department grant it three U.S.-South Africa frequencies as described above to allow Delta to start its proposed nonstop Atlanta-Cape Town service, and to grant Delta such other or different relief as is consistent with this Application and the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Walker", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Walker

For DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

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<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Orders 1991-10-33, and 2007-4-27 (Blanket Open Skies), and 2010-12-24.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Application has been served this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022, upon the following persons via email:

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